

In the claims:

1. (Original) A link element (10) for windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod (28) and is manufactured out of a metal sheet (16) by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall (40), at least one wall part of a side wall (38, 42) is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device (32, 52, 54; 60; 58, 64) for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space (30) between side walls (38, 42), characterized in that a slot (52) lateral to the longitudinal direction (56) of the link element (10) is let into the innermost sheet metal layer from the bottom edge (50) and a pin (54) is inserted into this slot.

2. (Previously presented) The link element (10) according to claim 1, wherein the slot (52) and the covering wall (40) enclose an acute angle ( $\varphi$ ) whose vertex points toward a linking end (34).

3. (Previously presented) The link element (10) claim 1, wherein the pin (54) is press-fitted and/or secured in detent fashion between the outer sheet metal layers of the side walls (38, 42).

4. (Previously presented) A link element (10) for windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod (28) and is manufactured out of a metal sheet (16) by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall (40), at least one wall part of a side wall (38, 42) is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device (32, 52, 54; 60; 58, 64) for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space (30) between side walls (38, 42) except for a short side (62), an elongated piece (58) is respectively cut out from each of the innermost sheet metal layers of the side walls (38, 42) in the longitudinal direction (56) and is perforated at its free end; these pieces are bent inward by approx. 90° and their ends overlap so that the holes (64) coincide.

5. (Currently amended) A link element (10) for ~~windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod (28) and is manufactured out of a metal sheet (16) by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall (40), at least one wall part of a side wall (38, 42) is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device (32, 52, 54, 60; 58, 64) for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space (30) between side walls (38, 42) the according to~~

claim 4, wherein ends (66) are bent at right angles toward ~~the~~ linking end (34).

6. (currently amended) A link element (10) for windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod (28) and is manufactured out of a metal sheet (16) by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall (40), at least one wall part of a side wall (38, 42) is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device (32, 52, 54; 60; 58, 64) for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space (30) between side walls (38, 42) the width of the covering wall (40) and the height of the side walls (38, 42) decrease toward the wiper rod (28) and the contour of the stamped blanks made of sheet metal (14) favorably covers a rectangle (24) that has the maximal width and length of the blank, characterized in that the innermost sheet metal layers of each of the side walls (38, 42) are respectively adjoined by an inner wall (44) and when bent into place, these inner walls extend parallel to the covering wall (40) and have congruent hooks (32) formed onto their edges oriented toward one another; these hooks are bent by 90° into the free space (30) and their free ends point toward the wiper rod (28).

7. (Currently amended) The link element (10) according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~the wiper rod (28) is formed onto it.

8. (Currently amended) The link element according to claim 4, wherein ~~a~~the wiper rod (28) is formed onto it.

9. (Currently amended) The link element according to claim 10, wherein ~~a~~the wiper rod (28) is formed onto it.

10. (Currently amended) The link element according to claim 6, wherein ~~a~~the wiper rod (28) is formed onto it.

Please provide the following new abstract of the disclosure:

A link element for windshield wipers, which is adjoined by a wiper rod and is manufactured out of a metal sheet by means of stamping and bending, in which starting from a longitudinally aligned covering wall, at least one wall part of a side wall is comprised of a number of sheet metal layers produced by being bent inward by 180°, and a hanging device for a tension spring is fastened to the innermost sheet metal layer and protrudes into a free space between side walls, wherein in that a slot lateral to the longitudinal direction of the link element is let into the innermost sheet metal layer from the bottom edge and a pin is inserted into this slot.

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